



Socioeconomic Disparities in Early children's Health: Exploratory Study

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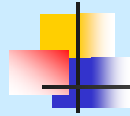
GuangMing Ling

Educational Testing Service



SES Disparities In Young Children's Health: An Exploratory Study

- Background
- Process of developing this model
- Preliminary – exploratory findings
- Implications for future Investigations



Processes that may Explain SES Disparities in Health

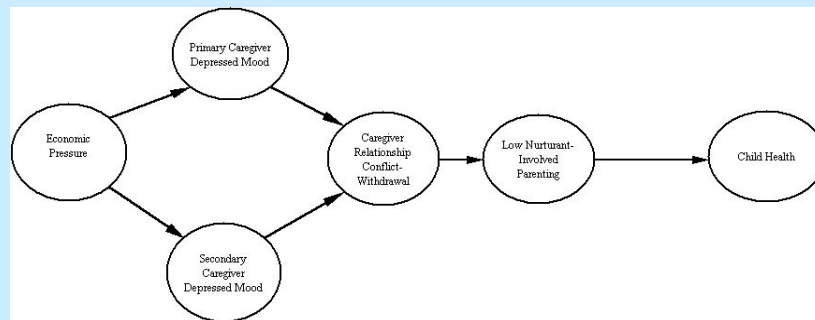
- Direct effects- access to resources, neighborhood, medical insurance.
- Family processes: Parental depression (distress); Relationship Conflict;
- Specific and qualitative aspects of parenting behavior.
- Biological and child characteristics
- Sources of Support



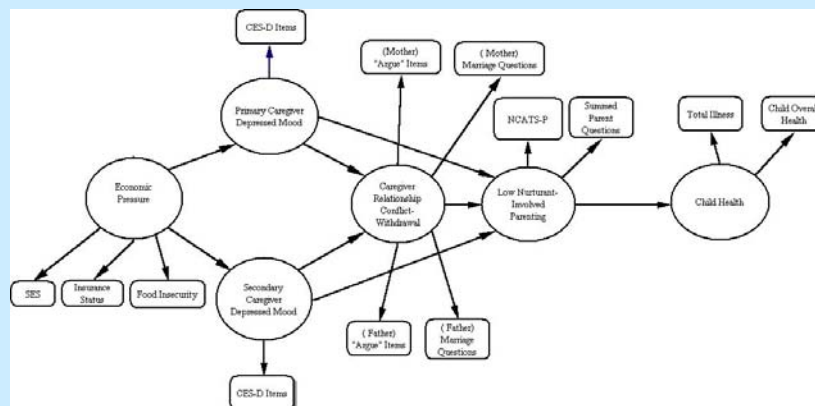
Family Stress Model

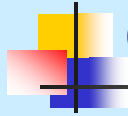
- Initial goal latent modeling of several key constructs that are part of the Family Stress Model

Basic Elements of FSM- Can we apply this to Health outcomes?

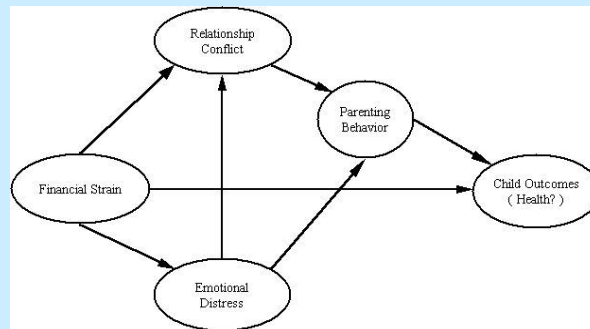


Exploratory Analyses





Our basic model



Modified Path Model: Research Questions

- What is the nature and size of the effect of socio-economic status on child health during the infancy period?
- Are there indirect effects of SES on early infant health that can be explained by parenting behavior?
- Is there an indirect effect of SES on infant health that is mediated by mother's depression level and mother's reported marital conflict?

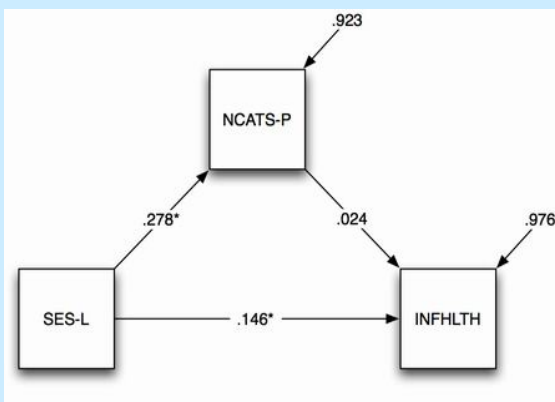
Table 2: Weighted correlations among the variables N= 5370

Variables	SES-L	CONFL	PDEP	INFHLTH	NCATS-P
SES-L	--	0.036	-0.172	0.153	0.278
CONFL		--	-0.35	0.072	0.045
PDEP			--	-0.111	-0.092
INFHLTH				--	0.065
NCATS-P					--

Table 3: Means and Standard deviations (Child Health at 24 months; “Predictor” Variables at 9 months.
(Weighted Results- WC02, 24 month Strata and Cluster Variables)
N = 5370

(Variable)	Weighted N	Mean	SE	Std Dev	Min	Max
SES-L	2448153	0.11	0.027	0.777	-.206	2.25
Observed Parenting (NCATS-P	2448153	35.032	0.112	4.417	17	49
Child (rated) Health at 24 months	2448153	4.522	0.016	0.724	1	5
Respondents' reported level of Depression	2448153	16.607	0.111	5.124	12	48
Relationship conflict (total score)	2448153	32.193	0.09	4.846	9	40

Parenting as a mediator of the Relations between SES and 24 Month Child Health



SES -> CHLTH

Total .153

Direct .146

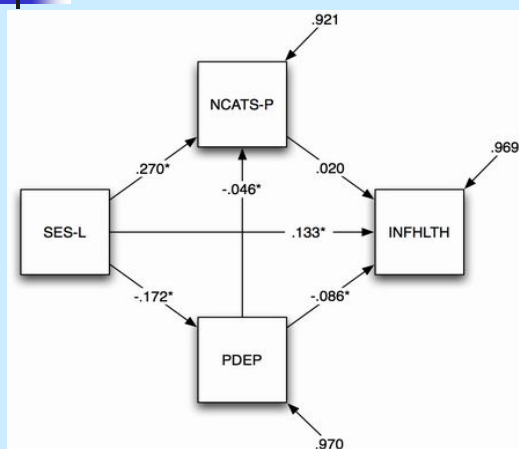
Indirect .006

NCATSP-CHLTH

Total .024

(.006)

SES: Parenting and Maternal Depression Mediating



SES -> CHLTH

Total .145

Direct .133

Indirect .013

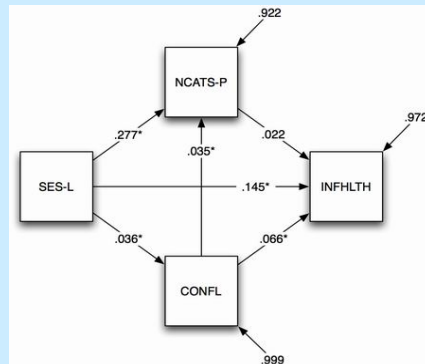
NCATSP-CHLTH

Total .020

PDEP -CHLTH

Total -.086

Model with Relationship Conflict and Parenting as Mediators



SES -> CHLTH

Total .153

Direct .145

Indirect .008

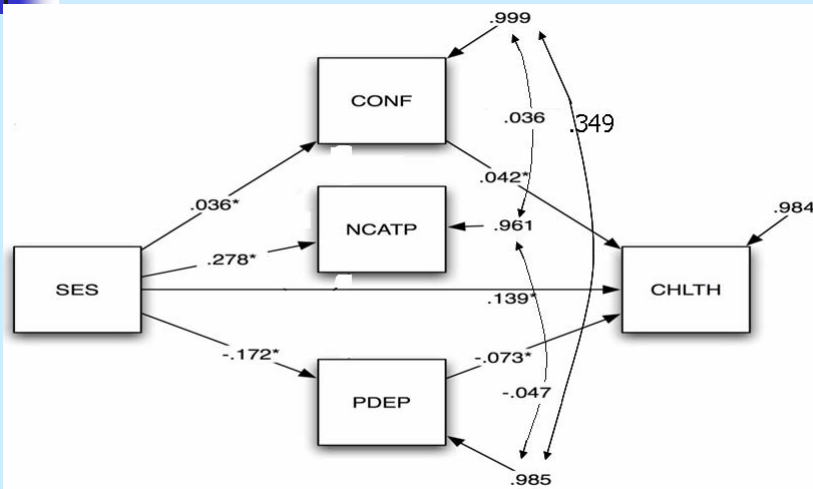
NCATSP-CHLTH

Total .022

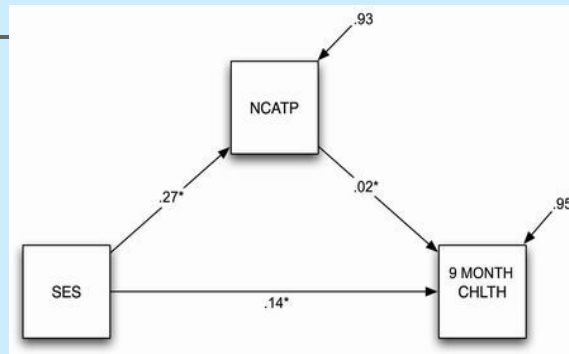
CONFL-CHLTH

Total .066

Full Model (24 month Child Health)

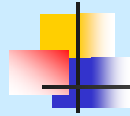


9-Month Predictors and 9-Month Child Health



Summary

- Mediator effects extremely small by absolute value
- Moderate SES effects on observed parenting at 9-months
- Very modest direct effects of depression and relationship conflict on child health



Implications for Future Research- Unanswered Questions

- Child Health
- Multiple measures of parenting
- Latent modeling possible with additional waves?
- Timing of parenting
- Limitations



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